

DCF 252.08 Pets and other animals.

(1) Pets that are kept on the premises of a day camp shall be maintained in good health and appropriately vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations shall be documented with a current certificate from a veterinarian.

Initial rabies immunization should be administered by five months of age and within one year after the initial immunization. Subsequent immunizations are to be administered at intervals stated on the certificate of vaccination. If no date is specified, the animal shall be vaccinated within three years of the previous vaccination, as specified in s. 95.21 (2) Wis. Stats.

(2) A pet that is suspected of being ill, or infested with external lice, fleas, ticks or internal worms shall be removed from the camp.

(3) In the event that an animal bites a child, the parent shall be notified and a veterinarian shall be contacted by center personnel to determine a course of action in the diagnosis of possible rabies in the animal. Procedures for emergency care of children shall be followed. Parents shall be notified of any action taken by the veterinarian.

See DCF 252.41(2) (a) – REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT INJURY REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(4) Turtles, skunks, exotic animals, wild animals and poisonous reptiles may not be kept as pets on the premises of the day camp.

Exotic animals are defined as being from another part of the world or foreign.

(5) Animal pens shall be kept clean.

(6) All contact between pets or animals and children shall be under the supervision of a camp counselor who is close enough to remove the child immediately if the pet or animal shows signs of distress or the child shows signs of treating the pet or animal inappropriately. Pets shall be kept and handled in a manner which protects the well-being of both children and pets.

Examples of aggressive behaviors are: showing teeth, growling, hissing, excessive barking, hair standing up on the animals back or tail between legs.

It is recommended that whenever children handle a pet or another animal, they wash their hands afterwards with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, the children may use soap and water-based wet wipes or hand sanitizer to clean hands until soap and water is available. If it says "alcohol free on the wet wipes container, the wet wipes are soap and water based.

Petting zoos are permitted however it is recommended that the camp's policy indicates what pets/animals are maintained at the camp and that parents are notified in advance of the animal's presence and which types of animals/pets children will be able to have direct contact with. Example: The children may touch a horse but not a llama.

(7) Pets in rooms used by children shall be confined in cages while food is being prepared or served. Pets, cages and litter boxes are prohibited in kitchens, lunch rooms and other food storage areas. Pet and animal feeding dishes and litter boxes may not be placed in areas accessible to children.

(8) No horses or other livestock may be permanently quartered closer than 500 feet from any building in which the day camp is located.

(9) Pets that pose any risk to the children shall be restricted from the areas used by children.

Examples of aggressive behaviors are: showing teeth, growling, hissing, excessive barking, hair standing up on the animals back or tail between legs.

252.08(10)

(10) Procedures to be followed when children have contact with animals, other than pets, while in the care of the camp shall be included in the camp's health policy.

Note: Service animals used by a person with a disability to assist that person are not considered pets under this rule while they are working as a service animal.

It is recommended that the following items be included in the health policy:

- *How supervision will be maintained when children interact with animals.*
- *Whether animals will be touched by children.*
- *How bites received from an animal will be handled.*
- *How sanitation will be maintained including handwashing when handling animals.*